



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/788,613

02/27/2004

Robert Paul Morris

1223/US

6484

49278 7590 04/18/2007  
SCENERA RESEARCH, LLC  
111 Corning Road  
Suite 220  
Cary, NC 27518

EXAMINER

KANG, PAUL H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2144

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
--	-----------	---------------

3 MONTHS

04/18/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/788,613

Applicant(s)

MORRIS, ROBERT PAUL

Examiner

Paul H. Kang

Art Unit

2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following grammatical informality:  
“configured” on line 2 should be “configure”. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Edlund et al., US Pat. No. 6,484,162 B1.

4. As to claims 1, 16, 31, 46, 47 and 48, Edlund teaches a computer-implemented method, a computer readable medium, and system for providing links to one or more resources related to a specified resource comprising:

allowing a user to select a specified resource for which a relation is to be configured (the user selects a specified resource such as information categories, news group articles, domains, etc.; col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line 8);

Art Unit: 2144

a resource management system for allowing a user to select a specified resource and to configure a relation comprising a matching criteria for the resource (col. 6, line 58 – col. 7, line 24; col. 9, lines 1-49 and col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line 8);

means for associating the relation to the specified resource (col. 8, line 52 – col. 9, line 65 and col. 10, line 25 – col. 11, line 5);

means for storing the relation associated with the specified resource in a relation database coupled to the resource management system (col. 9, lines 1-65);

a search engine coupled to the resource management system for processing the relation to create a relation set comprising the links to the one or more related resources satisfying the matching criteria (col. 9, line 66 – col. 10, line 22); and

means for displaying the relation set to the user (col. 7, line 25 – col. 8, line 16).

5. As to claims 2, 17 and 32, Edlund teaches a user interface coupled to the resource management system for allowing the user to select a resource type to be returned, wherein, the resource management system includes means for receiving the user's selection and a relation engine for retrieving from the relation database a template corresponding to the resource type, wherein the template comprises a plurality of parameters associated with the corresponding resource type (col. 8, line 52 – col. 9, line 65).

6. As to claims 3, 18, 33, 34, and 35, Edlund teaches the computer-implemented method, computer readable medium, and system wherein the resource management system further includes means for allowing the user to create the matching criteria

Art Unit: 2144

utilizing the plurality of parameters via the user interface, wherein the one or more related resources satisfy the matching criteria (col. 6, line 58 – col. 7, line 67 and col. 8, line 52 – col. 9, line 65);

wherein the relation engine automatically retrieves and displays any previously defined relation for the resource in response to the user selecting the resource to be configured (col. 10, lines 25-62);

wherein the resource management system includes means for allowing the user to select a previously defined relation and allowing the user to update the matching criteria in the previously defined relation selected (col. 10, lines 25-62).

7. As to claims 4, 19 and 36, Edlund teaches the computer-implemented method, computer readable medium, and system wherein the relation further comprises a context constraint that imposes conditions not related to the matching criteria (col. 8, line 52 – col. 9, line 65).

8. As to claims 5, 20 and 37, Edlund teaches the computer-implemented method, computer readable medium, and system wherein the relation engine automatically retrieves from the relation database a context template comprising a plurality of context parameters and the resource management system includes means for allowing the user to create or update the context constraint utilizing the plurality of context parameters (col. 6, line 58 – col. 7, line 67 and col. 8, line 52 – col. 9, line 65).

Art Unit: 2144

9. As to claims 6 and 21, Edlund teaches the computer-implemented method and computer readable medium comprising storing the relation after it has been associated with the resource (col. 9, lines 1-65).

10. As to claims 7, 22 and 38, Edlund teaches the computer-implemented method, computer readable medium, and system wherein the resource management system includes means for receiving the user's request to access the resource, and wherein the relation engine, in response to such a request, automatically retrieves the relation associated with the resource (col. 6, line 58 – col. 7, line 67).

11. As to claim 39, Edlund teaches the computer-implemented method, computer readable medium, and system wherein the resource management system includes means for passing the matching criteria associated with the relation to the search engine for execution (col. 6, line 58 – col. 7, line 67).

12. As to claims 8, 23 and 40, Edlund teaches the computer-implemented method, computer readable medium, and system wherein the search engine includes means for locating the one or more related resources satisfying the matching criteria and means for collecting links for the one or more related resources to create the relation set (col. 6, line 58 – col. 7, line 67 and col. 8, line 52 – col. 9, line 65).

13. As to claims 9, 24 and 41, Edlund teaches the computer-implemented method, computer readable medium, and system wherein the relation further comprises a context

Art Unit: 2144

constraint that imposes one or more conditions not related to the matching criteria, wherein the one or more conditions includes a security criteria (col. 8, lines 17-49 and col. 11, liens 6-29).

14. As to claims 10, 25 and 42, Edlund teaches the computer-implemented method, computer readable medium, and system wherein the resource management system includes means for examining the security criteria prior to passing the matching criteria to the search engine to determine whether the user is authorized to submit the relation and means for returning an error message to the user if the user is not authorized (col. 8, lines 17-49 and col. 11, liens 6-29)..

15. As to claims 11, 12, 13, 26, 27, 28 and 43, Edlund teaches the computer-implemented method, computer readable medium, and system wherein the resource management system includes means for examining the context constraint to determine whether the relation is executable upon request and means for instructing the relation engine retrieve a relation set most recently created if the relation is not executable upon request or if executable collecting links for the one or more related resources to create the relation set (col. 8, lines 17-49 and col. 11, liens 6-29).

16. As to claims 14, 29 and 44, Edlund teaches the computer-implemented method, computer readable medium, and system wherein in response to the user's request to access the resource, the resource management system displays the relation associated with the resource via the user interface and wherein the resource management system

Art Unit: 2144

further includes means for allowing the user to select the displayed relation, means for allowing the user to define one or more narrowing constraints, means for appending the one or more narrowing constraints to the matching criteria to form a modified matching criteria, and means for passing the modified matching criteria to the search engine for execution (col. 6, line 58 – col. 7, line 67 and col. 8, line 52 – col. 9, line 65).

17. As to claims 15, 30 and 45, Edlund teaches the computer-implemented method, computer readable medium, and system further comprising means for allowing the user to utilize the links in the relation set to navigate from the specified resource to the one or more resources satisfying the matching criteria (col. 3, lines 33-54 and col. 6, line 58 – col. 7, line 67).

### *Response to Arguments*

18. Applicant's arguments filed February 5, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicants argued in substance that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest allowing the user to “select a specified resource” for which a relation is to be configured, and “associating the relation with the specified resource.” The applicants argue that Edlund fails to teach selecting a specified resource, such as an image or photo album. Further, Applicants describe resources as “stored objects, e.g. user sites, electronic greeting cards, electronic books, movies, music, images and photo albums.”



Art Unit: 2144

19. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Contrary to Applicant's interpretation of Edlund and the claimed invention, Edlund teaches the claimed limitation "allowing a user to select a specified resource for which a relation is to be configured" and "allowing the user to configure the relation comprising a matching criteria for the specified resource." See claim 1.

Applicants argue limitations which are not essential to the scope of the prior art. The definiteness of the language employed must be analyzed, not in a vacuum, but always in light of the teachings of the prior art and of the particular application disclosure as it would be interpreted by one possessing the ordinary level of skill in the pertinent art. Insofar, the claims have been given the broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification and the prior art, since the applicant may then amend his claims, the thought being to reduce the possibility that after a patent is granted the claims may be interpreted as giving broader coverage than is justified. Therefore, applicant's arguments regarding images and photo albums, etc., are not given weight as to the patentability of the claimed subject matter.

Further, Edlund teaches that a user generates a search query comprising Boolean operators identifying a specified information category, such as news group articles, or domains. In generating such a query, the user is able to select a specified resource, i.e. a stored object such as domains or "a user site" as suggested by applicant. See Edlund, col. 9, lines 1-15 and lines 29-49. The user is also able to configure the relation through the Query Interface. See Edlund, col. 7, lines 44-67 and col. 8, lines 34-49.

Art Unit: 2144

20. Applicants also argue in reference to claim 17, that the prior art fails to teach that the system assists the user in configuring the relation by retrieving a template that corresponds to the resource type the user wants returned. The examiner disagrees. In Edlund, a user may retrieve prior search queries that assist the user in retrieving resources the user wants returned. See col. 8, lines 34-49. Further, Edlund teaches a domain mapping table comprising a hash table that contains domain specific query command to aid the user in configuring the relation to the resource type the user wants returned.

### *Conclusion*

21. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul H. Kang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3882. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 hour flex. First Friday.

Art Unit: 2144

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Paul H. Kang  
Primary Examiner